

protecting the American people. We have established better communications networks to make information on rapidly emerging threats available to local officials in real time. We are transforming the FBI into an agency whose primary focus is stopping terrorism. And we created a new Northern Command in the Department of Defense with the mission of defending the American homeland.

To better protect the country, we have posted Homeland Security personnel at foreign ports, beefed up airport and seaport security at home, and instituted better visa screening for those entering our country. We have placed state-of-the-art equipment in major cities to detect biological agents and stockpiled enough smallpox vaccine for every American, in case of an emergency. And this week, I signed a new law establishing Project BioShield, which will speed the development of new vaccines and treatments against biological agents that could be used in a terrorist attack.

On Thursday, I visited with first-responders at the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy. I thanked them for their service and assured them that Amer-

ica will give them the tools they need to do their jobs. Since September of 2001, my administration has provided more than \$13 billion to equip and train more than a half a million first-responders across America.

There's still more to do. As Commander in Chief, it is critical that I receive the best intelligence to defend the American people. The 9/11 Commission's recommendations will help guide our efforts as we work to protect the homeland. And we can be confident, although the threats of this new century are dangerous, America has the resources, the strength, and the resolve to overcome them.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6:56 a.m. on July 23 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on July 24. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 23 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Methane to Markets Partnership *July 28, 2004*

Today the United States and several major international partners are forming the Methane to Markets Partnership, a new and innovative program to increase energy security, improve environmental quality, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions throughout the world. The United States will commit up to \$53 million to the Partnership over the next 5 years. To date, Australia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom have agreed to participate as founding partners, along with the United States.

Under the Partnership, members will work in coordination with the private sector to share and expand the use of technologies to capture methane emissions that are now wasted in the course of industrial processes and use them as a new energy source. The important benefits of this international partnership include improved energy security and air quality from the use of clean-burning methane as natural gas, improved coal mine safety, enhanced economic growth, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions of methane. The Partnership will be led by

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Mike Leavitt, working closely with the Department of State, the Department of Energy, and the United States Agency for International Development. Administrator Leavitt will host a ministerial-level

meeting of the founding international partners later this year. I look forward to working closely with our international partners to achieve the Partnership's important goals.

Statement on Progress in Homeownership *July 29, 2004*

My administration has put forward an aggressive agenda to help all Americans—especially first-time homeowners, low-income families, and minorities—achieve the dream of owning their own home. Today's homeownership statistics show that we are making significant progress in building an ownership society in America. We have set a

new record for homeownership, and today, more Americans, including minorities, own their own home than ever before. We will continue to usher in a new era of ownership by providing additional opportunities for all Americans to realize the American Dream.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting the Executive Order on Termination of the National Emergency Declared in Executive Order 12722 With Respect to Iraq and Modification of Related Executive Orders *July 29, 2004*

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Consistent with subsection 204(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(b) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (this "order") in which I terminate the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, amend Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, and take additional steps regarding the national emergency I declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, and expanded in Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003. I have determined that the situations that gave rise to these national emergencies have been significantly altered by the removal of the regime of Saddam Hussein and other developments.

Executive Order 12722 of August 2, 1990, imposed sanctions on Iraq in response to its invasion of Kuwait and other actions. Those sanctions were modified in Executive Order 12724 of August 9, 1990, in light of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 661 of August 6, 1990, which also imposed sanctions on Iraq. I have determined that the removal of the regime of Saddam Hussein warrants the termination altogether of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 12722. This action is consistent with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1483 and 1546, of May 22, 2003, and June 8, 2004, respectively, which substantially lifted the multilateral economic sanctions against Iraq.